

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /024 R

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB-VLTOMSETH:MFG

APPROVED BY EA MR MILLER

S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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O 310041Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126910 TOSEC 020173

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK'S 9730 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC COMUSMACTHAI DTD 28 MAY 75

QUOTE:

S E C R E T BANGKOK 9730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REF: BANGKOK 9539

1. JOINT US-THAI WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CURRENT PHASE OF FORCE REDUCTIONS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 (REFTEL). THIS MEETING WILL RESULT IN PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBING CUTS AGREED TO.
2. SOON THEREAFTER, ADDITIONAL CUTS TOTALING 4,000 SPACES WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED UPON AND ANNOUNCED IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENT TO CUT 7,500 SPACES BY ABOUT JUNE 30.
3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT YET INFORMED WHERE THE ADDITIONAL 4,000 SPACES ARE TO COME FROM, WE NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER COULD BE REACHED SIMPLY BY ABOLISHING EXISTING UNFILLED SPACES.

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IF THIS IS INDEED WHAT WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATES, SEPARATE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THEREOF WILL GIVE US SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATION PROBLEM. REDUCTION OF 4,000 "GHOST" TROOPS WILL NOT ONLY LACK IMPACT, BUT WILL BE WIDELY PERCEIVED IN THAILAND AS SHELL GAME. DESPITE ALL EFFORTS, THAI CONFUSE AUTHORIZED SPACES WITH PHYSICAL BODIES, AND IT WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THEM THAT WE ARE NOT PLAYING SOME KIND OF TRICK WITH MIRRORS.

4. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS, WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE ENTIRE REDUCTION OF 7,500 AT THE SAME TIME WE ANNOUNCE DRAWDOWN OF F-11'S AND B-52'S AND CLOSURE OF UBON. THIS SHOULD BE DONE UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PART OF 4,000 SPACES NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR IN DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL CONSIST OF ACTUAL UNITS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST WE BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY WHETHER ALL OR MOST OF UNACCOUNTED FOR 4,000 SPACES WILL CONSIST OF CURRENTLY UNFILLED SPACES, AND IF SO, REQUEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.
WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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